

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of civil rights activist Joe S. Merry.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this Assembly should pay tribute to those exemplary Tennesseans who have given unselfishly of themselves, their time and talents, for the betterment of their community and state; and

WHEREAS, it was with a profound sense of loss that this body learned of the death of Joe S. Merry, 78, of Jackson, Tennessee, who was one such outstanding Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, as a civil rights activist and businessman, Mr. Merry diligently served the people of Jackson, Tennessee, conveying the message of positive relations among races; and

WHEREAS, born in Jackson, Tennessee, Mr. Merry, for many years, fought desperately to eradicate the evils of racism and segregation that so viciously severed race relations; and

WHEREAS, a distinguished and unparalleled civil rights leader, Mr. Merry meritoriously served as president of the local chapter of the NAACP where he used his influence to further the cause of African Americans in Jackson, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, the son of a civil rights leader and the youngest of 10 children, Mr. Merry has never been a stranger to the struggle of African Americans; and

WHEREAS, because of his lifelong agenda concerning civil rights, his outstanding efforts have motivated others to view him as “a man who’s spirit changed Jackson for all African Americans”; and

WHEREAS, as an entrepreneur, Mr. Merry lived his life as an exceptional role model, serving his community unreservedly; and

WHEREAS, He is survived by his lovely wife, Mattie Merry, and a successful daughter, Joanne, a teacher in Washington, D.C.; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we express our deep regret at the death of this exemplary leader and extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family and countless friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

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